

Message from the President



Dear members,

this first newsletter of the year reminds us that the next Annual Congress of GA is imminent. The 67th International Congress and Annual Meeting will held in Innsbruck from September 1–5, 2019. I am thankful to Prof. Hermann Stuppner and colleagues of the Local Organizing Committee for kindly hosting the event! We expect that more than 500 scientists from all over the world will participate. The scientific program include plenary lectures by notable scientists, short lectures, poster sessions and some award lectures, including the Egon Stahl Award in Silver, the Bionorica Phytoneering Award, and the Dr. Willmar Schwabe Research Scholarship which will be announced and bestowed to distinguished scientists during the congress. I am very happy this year many outstanding scientists have submitted their candidature and I am passionately inviting all the GA members to submit their candidature for the 2020 awards will be announced at the end of this year in the NL. Thus, you all should consider whether your research, or maybe that of a research group you closely collaborate with, would adequate with the aims of these prizes. Moreover, if you are a senior scientist from a lesser developed country, inform your PhD students of the Dr. Willmar Schwabe Research Scholarship! Travel grants to graduate students and post docs, the Thieme Award 2018 for the “Most Innovative Planta Medica Original Paper” and prizes for the best posters are scheduled. I am very pleased to communicate you that on the occasion of the GA session on Monday morning, three new GA Honorary Members will be nominated in recognition of their services to GA over many years.

The scheduled program of the Congress is very amusing offering many opportunities to the participants. Three pre-symposium meetings are scheduled for Sunday 31st August 2019 and include the Young Researchers Workshop, the Symposium on Veterinary Phytotherapy and for the first time the workshop of the African Research Network Working Group. This year the expected Regulatory Affairs

Workshop is planned for Monday during lunchtime. Other short workshops with special subjects are arranged during the GA congress; please visit the congress websites for the details at <http://www.ga2019.at>. The Members Meeting is arranged for Tuesday 2nd September. The agenda is included in this newsletter. The most important point of this agenda is represented by the elections of the Executive Committee and Advisory Board for the next two-year term 2020–2021. I cordially invite you all to participate in the Members Meeting and elections! I hope that especially some young members will be willing to candidate and to serve GA with motivation and new ideas, please consider your candidature for younger board member. Finally, the congress organizers have arranged some cultural and enjoyable events during the conference and post-congress excursions to discover some beautiful parts of Austria. I wanted to express my gratitude to all those who are involved with the organization!

This year GA was also involved in the co-organization of several meetings. These include the Symposium “Edelweiss-Phytochemical, pharmacological and clinical evidence” held on April 25, 2019 in Graz, Austria, 23th International Congress “Phytopharm 2019” scheduled for July 1–3, 2019 in Saint-Petersburg, Russia (www.phytopharm.pro) and the 7th Mistletoe Symposium “Mistletoe in Tumour Therapy Basic Research and Clinical Practice” programmed for November 7–9, 2019 Nonnweiler, Germany (www.mistelsymposium.de). Please visit the websites for further information concerning the programs.

Looking further ahead, next year GA will be involved in the 12th International Congress on Natural Products Research (ICNPR 2020), the Joint Meeting of the regular scientific societies ASP, AFERP, GA, JSP, PSE, SIF, and, next year, for the first time the Korean Society of Pharmacognosy (KSP) will join this event. The Congress location will be the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco, California from Saturday, from 25th to 30th July 2020. Preparations are well underway, and it will be a major event with well over 1000 participants.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members who have offered and dedicated their time and expertise to serve GA in many skills. I would like to thank Prof. Hensel for his dedication to the keep GA Newsletter attractive and valuable. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the new Editors in chief of *Planta Medica* Prof. Kaiser and Prof. Fürst for accepting to lead the Editorial Board and I invite all members to consider this scientific journal for the publication of their valuable studies and to enquire for the low rate online access. I would like to announce you that this year the abstracts of the 67th International Congress will be published in a special issue of *Planta Medica*. I cordially invite all of you also to submit your contributions to the *Planta Medica* International Open, the open access companion journal to *Planta Medica*, and I am grateful the Edi-

tor in chief Prof. Pieters, and the editors for their precious support.

Finally, I would like to remind all members that GA has a foundation, "Plants for Health", aiming to promote research and scientific knowledge in the field of natural pro-

ducts, medicinal plants and phytotherapy, especially of outstanding young scientists. I hugely invite all of you to make donations to support these activities; details are at the website www.plantsforhealth.org.

I hope to welcome many of you at the upcoming GA Congress in Innsbruck!

With best wishes
Anna Rita Bilia, President of GA



A Foundation of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)
Eine Stiftung der Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzen und Naturstoffforschung (GA)

1st Charity Walk "Up the Mountains"

"Plants for Health" (<http://www.plantsforhealth.org/>)

The GA foundation supports research on medicinal plants and natural products!

Innsbruck and the wonderful mountains!

Let us combine activities!

The foundation invites all of you for a spectacular charity walk – great mountains, great view, great plants in the wonderful nature near Innsbruck and a bit of physical activity after the scientific conference!

What happens: Early in the morning the Bus takes us to the starting point (Adelshof). First stop is the **Birgitzer Alm**, located at 1808m above sea level (about 1 to 2h walk) – enjoy a typical Alm (high mountain meadow) and rest.

For those still hungry for more, we go up further (about 1 hour) to the **Birgitzköpflhaus** (2098m) – rest and enjoy the great panorama.

For the very sportive participants we can try to get up to the top of **Nockspitze** (2403m), an exhausting 1 hours hike. Take a breathtaking photo and enjoy nature and yourself.

Walking back to the starting point (another 3 hours)

When: Thursday, 05. September 2019

For the Charity Walk we ask for a donation of at least 25€ (the foundation is always happy for more!) per person which directly supports the foundation Plants for Health. Bus ticket to the starting point have to be paid by every hiker individually in the bus.

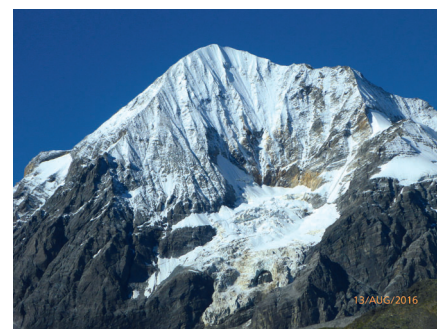
Only for good walkers, which have experience in mountain area; good condition is a prerequisite.

The foundation and organizers will take no liability for risks and losses during the event. We will try our best to get you a great and unforgettable day.

And one more aspect: the charity hike can only start if the weather is fine. We will com-

municate this the day before. Necessary are good shoes: at least very stable trekking shoes or mountain boots.

We are looking forward to a great event!



The Foundation's Board:

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Bauer, Graz, Austria
Prof. Dr. Michael Heinrich, London, U.K.
Prof. Dr. Andreas Hensel, Münster, Germany
Dr. Bernd Röther, Neumarkt, Germany

<http://www.plantsforhealth.org/>

The Society informs

Invitation to the Members Meeting 2019

During the 67th Annual Meeting of our Society, which will take place in Innsbruck, Austria, from 1st to 5th September 2019, a regular Members' Meeting will be held. It is scheduled for Tuesday, 3rd September 2019, 7.00 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. Location: Kaiser-Leopold Hall, University of Innsbruck, Karl Rahner-Platz 3, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria

This announcement in the Newsletter has to be considered as the official invitation to the Members' Meeting (in accordance with the

GA bylaws), as this Newsletter is sent out to all members of our Society.

Preliminary Agenda:

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the members' meeting held in Shanghai 28th August 2018, (published in GA newsletter 2-2018)
3. Annual reports
 - 3.1 Report of the President
 - 3.2 Reports of the Vice-Presidents
 - 3.3 Report of the Secretary
 - 3.4 Report of the Treasurer
 - 3.5 Report of the Auditors
 - 3.5 Discharge of the Executive Council

4. Report of the Editor-in-Chief of *Planta Medica*
5. Report of the Working Groups
6. Report Foundation "Plants for Health"
7. Elections of the Board of Directors
 - 7.1 Election of the President
 - 7.2 Election of the two Vice-Presidents
 - 7.3 Election of the Secretary
 - 7.4 Election of the Treasurer
 - 7.5 Election of the Advisory Board
8. Future congresses, symposia and workshops
9. Miscellaneous

On behalf of the Executive Council
Prof. Anna Rita Bilia, GA President

Next Annual GA Conference

67th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)

Innsbruck, Austria
September 1-5, 2019

Dear friends and colleagues,
Dear attendees,

We are glad to inform you that the upcoming GA meeting in Innsbruck Austria will start on Sunday, September 01, 2019 with four pre-congress events including the Young Researchers' Workshop (YRW), the African Research Workshop as well as the one-day pre congress symposia on Animal Healthcare and Veterinary Phytotherapy and Economic Adulteration of Botanical Ingredients. These events will take place at the University of Innsbruck, Center for Chemistry and Biomedicine (CCB), Innrain 80–82, 6020 Innsbruck, where in the evening we cordially invite you to get together.

The main conference venue is situated right in the center of Innsbruck in the Congress Innsbruck, Rennweg 3. The scientific program of the main conference from September 02–04 comprises a wide range of plenary lectures by invited speakers, award lectures, keynote presentations, contributed short lectures in three parallel sessions, poster presentations, workshops and exhibitions. Therefore, the GA 2019 will be the perfect venue to expand the scope of your knowledge and will provide a perfect platform to share your research with colleagues from all over the world, for networking and lively scientific discussions. For the first time also recordings of selected plenary lectures presented during the Annual Meeting of the GA 2019 in Innsbruck will be organized and will be freely available on the GA website then.

Furthermore, all attendees and exhibitors are invited to join the congress evening at Swarovski Crystal World Wattens on Monday, September 02, 2019. Three excursions will be organized in the frame of this meeting: a costumed Innsbruck City tour, a one day hike (1st Charity Walk by the Foundation



“Plants for Health”) provided that the weather will be fine, and a daytrip to Bozen including the visit of the research centre Laimburg with wine tasting and the visit of the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology (Ötzi Museum).

We are confident that you will enjoy the program of the GA 2019 in Innsbruck, Austria and we are looking forward to seeing you at the conference.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee,
Hermann Stuppner

New GA members

Until May 2019 the following 103 new members have joined our Society:

Michael **Baah**, Ghana; Fatai Oladunni **Balogun**, South Africa; Evangelia **Bampali**, Austria; Arnaud **Gaudry**, Switzerland; Dina **Hassouna El-Kashef**, Egypt; Muhammad **Khalil-ur-Rehman**, Pakistan; Tuba **Kusman**, Turkey; Praskovia **Mizina**, Russia; James **Oppong-Kyekyeku**, Ghana; Juan Francisco **Perez Sabino**, Guatemala; Dominik **Popowski**, Poland; Vagner **Rodrigues Santos**, Brazil; Izumi Sasanuma, Japan; **Shanaida**, Ukraine; Nico **Symma**, Germany; Stephan **Walch**, Germany; Hamidreza **Ardalani**, Denmark; Bina **Bhattarai**, Denmark; Ken-ichi **Nakashima**, Japan; Mostafa **Asmaey**, Egypt; Edlira **Neza**, Albania; Gabriela Alina **Stefan**, Rumania; Durk **Meijer**, Netherlands. Ngozichukwuka **Igoli**, Nigeria; Ofentse **Mazimba**, Botswana; Naim **Malaj**, Switzerland; Tooloo **Tolo**, Indonesia; Marie **Netopilova**, Czech Republic; Julia **Werle**, Czech Republic; Marketa **Houdkova**, Czech Republic; Hayford **Osei-Owusu**, Czech Republic; Julia **Langeder**, Austria; Khanitha **Pudhom**, Thailand; Claudio **Ferrante**, Italy; Sonia **Piacente**, Italy;

Thanika **Pathomwichaiwat**, Thailand; Olorunfemi **Molehin**, Nigeria; Chidimma **Chukwunwejim**, Nigeria; Patrick **Obi**, Nigeria; Marcela **Speranda**, Croatia; Jiranan **Chaingam**, Thailand; Katharina **Schreck**, Germany; Naohito **Abe**, Japan; Marcus **Ludwig**, Germany; Aarón **Vázquez-Hernández**, Mexico; Petar Ristivojevic, Serbia and Montenegro; Emre **Gezer**, Turkey; Ni Putu **Ariantari**, Germany; Zaiba **Naseem**, India; Eyup **Bilgi**, Turkey; Melis **Küçüksolak**, Turkey; Demet **Kul**, Turkey; Mustafa Ünver **Kurt**, Turkey; Göklem **Üner**, Turkey; Nilgun **Yakubogullari**, Turkey; Pia Gabriela **Raab**, Austria; Shunsuke **Nakamori**, Japan; Silas **Adjei**, Ghana; Lawrence Sheringham **Borquaye**, Ghana; David **Darko Obiri**, Ghana; Emmanuel **Bentil Asare Adusei**, Ghana; In Jin **Ha**, South Korea; Hyoung-Geun **Kim**, South Korea; Yeong-Geun **Lee**, South Korea; Somtanuek **Chotchoungchatchai**, Thailand; Piotr **Michel**, Poland; Adrianna **Skiba**, Poland; Petros **Tzimas**, Greece; Adriana **Trifan**, Romania; Charoenwong **Premprasert**, Thailand; Juraithip **Wungsintaweekul**, Thailand; Marselina Irasonia **Tan**, Indonesia; Abdul **Hafeez**, UK; Payal **Dande**, India; David **Picking**, Jamaica; Sye-

da Maryam **Hussain**, Pakistan; Michael **Spiteller**, Germany; Asih **Triastuti**, Indonesia; Domenic **Mittas**, Austria; Chee-Yan **Choo**, Malaysia; Valentine Chi **Mbatchou**, Ghana; Ana Paula **Simões-Wüst**, Switzerland; Mamadou Aliou **Balde**, Belgium; Maxime **Brits**, Belgium; Yunita Eka Puspitasari, Belgium; Stefaniya **Velichkova**, Belgium; Stavros **Beteinakis**, Greece; Eleni Vaskani **Mikropoulou**, Greece; Andrea **Mastinu**, Italy; Giulia **Vanti**, Italy; Francesca **Pedrelli**, Italy; Omolade **Oladele**, Nigeria; Mirielle **Nauman**, USA; Dieu **Nguyen**, Austria; Thanh Hoa **Vo**, Vietnam; Felix Junior **Zongwe**, South Africa; Paolo **Governa**, Italy; Vuyisile Samuel **Thibane**, South Africa; Tivadar **Kiss**, Hungary; Manyou **Yu**, Portugal; Theresa **Lehner**, Austria; Álvaro Miguel **Fernández-Blanco Barreto**, Spain.

GA warmly welcomes all new members and hopes that the Society may serve them as an international platform for many scientific and personal contacts.

Dr. Heba Aziz-Kalbhenn, GA Secretary

African Research Workshop



During the 67th annual congress of the GA, African researchers will present their research in a dedicated workshop on medicinal plant and natural products research conducted in Africa. The workshop is organized by the African Research Network of the GA and will take place as a pre-congress workshop on Sunday, 01 September 2019, (1 to 4 pm) at the University of Innsbruck (CCB).



Prof. Dr. Sami Khalid

Aim of the African Research Workshop is to present and discuss natural products related research and to stimulate the dialogue between African scientists.

An impulse lecture will be held at the beginning of the workshop by Prof. Dr. Sami Khalid: *“Revisiting African traditional medicine within the 21st century context – past, present and future perspectives”*.

A following short lecture session with researchers working in the field of medicinal plant and natural products research will pro-

vide an overview about the diverse topics related to natural products research conducted in Africa.

The best short lecture contribution will be awarded at the end of the workshop and the awardee will be granted the opportunity to present his lecture during the main program of the annual congress!

All interested researchers are cordially invited to join the workshop. The workshop itself is free of charge, however prior registration via the registration portal of the annual



Dr. Cica Vissiennon, the new chair of the GA African Research Network

congress is mandatory (visit www.ga2019.at).

Not a member of the African Research Network yet? Visit our website (<https://www.ga-online.org/african-research-network>) and fill out the registration form to join us!

Dr. rer. nat. Cica Vissiennon

Animal Healthcare and Veterinary Phytotherapy: Science and Practice

Thanks to the efforts of Professor Hermann Stuppner, the local organizer of the GA-Congress 2019, the **GA-networking group on Medicinal Plants and Natural Products in Animal Healthcare and Veterinary Medicine** was invited to organize again a one-day Pre-Congress Symposium. To bring together practitioners, scientists and industry in our field is the idea of our networking group and in particular of the symposium.

The symposium will cover following aspects: animal self-medication, ethnoveterinary medicine, veterinary pharmacology of medicinal plants, science and practice of veterinary phytotherapy, clinical, in vivo and in vitro research with medicinal plants or natural products for animals, feed additives and animal health care products based on plants rich in phytochemicals.

The scheduled program includes keynote lectures, invited short lectures, as well as contributed short lectures. The animal related contributions of the main congress will

be presented as posters during the Pre-Congress Symposium. An international industrial exhibition with companies presenting herbal feed additives, veterinary drugs and phytochemical health care products for animals will be held. A broad professional, scientific and personal exchange will be possible during the breaks.

In addition to the Pre-Congress Symposium at least one plenary lecture of the main congress will focus on our topic: Mike Huffman will give a broad overview about animal self-medication. We will also have a short lecture session and a poster session within the main congress. All these program items will take place Tuesday 3rd of September 2019. In the evening of this day we will have our networking group meeting.

The Pre-Congress Symposium can be booked alone or in addition to the main congress.

Only a sort outline of hot-topic talks you can expect: **Phytochemicals in animal nutri-**



tion – their potential as functional feed, Quendrim Zebeli, Austria; **Let feed and food be our medicine – how plants phytochemical diversity enhances health**, Frederick D. Provenza, USA; **Pharmacological and toxicological insights into veterinary phytotherapy**, Marta Mendel, Poland; **Mistletoe in adjuvant cancer treatment of companion animals**, Sonja Axmann, Austria; **After 10'000 years of domestication – are livestock still able to self-medicate?** Frederick D. Provenza, USA; and some more exciting talks!

Hope to meet you all in Innsbruck!

Dr. Michael Walkenhorst

Honorary Doctoral Degree for Prof. Dr. Matthias Melzig

The Medical University of Warsaw (Warszawski Uniwersytet Medyczny), Poland, honored within an academic symposium at 14.12.2018 GA member Prof. Dr. Matthias Melzig, Berlin, with the Honorary Doctoral Degree *Doctor honoris causa*. As stated by the Dean of the Pharmaceutical Faculty and the Rector of the University, Matthias Melzig contributed over many years immensely

within the cooperation between both universities in Warsaw and in Berlin, and pushed forward enormously the science and many joint projects in the field of pharmacognosy and medical plant research.

GA congratulates to Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. M. Melzig



Honorary Doctorate of the Faculty of Philosophy of Helsinki University to Prof. Dr. R. Bauer

Former GA president Rudolf Bauer received the honorary doctorate of the Faculty of Philosophy of Helsinki University on 24th of May 2019.

He studied pharmacy at University of Munich from 1976–1980; 1984 graduation as Ph.D. at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Munich, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. H. Wagner; 1993–2002 appointment as Associate Professor at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Düsseldorf; since 2002 he is full professor of pharmacognosy at University of Graz, Austria, and since 2004 he is Head of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Since 2007 is heading also the TCM Research Center Graz (Medicinal Plant Research).

From 2002–2007 he has acted as president of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA), during 1998–2001 and 2008–2009 as Vice President, and from 1994–1997 and 2010–2017 he served in the Advisory Board of GA. From 1996–2015 he was member of the Editorial board of *Planta Medica*, and since 2014 he acts as the Chairman of the Board of the GA Foundation Plants for Health.

Besides, he has been engaged as the founding president of The Good Practice in TCM Research Association 2012–2014, and as president of the International Society of Ethnopharmacology from 2015–2017.

2005–2017, he has been member of the Advisory Board on Traditional Asian Medicine (TAM) of the Austrian Minister of Health.

Rudolf Bauer has been doing research in phytochemistry and in the development of methods for quality control of medicinal plants for more than 35 years. He is member of the expert group 13A and chair of the working group on TCM of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission. Together with Prof. Christine Moissl-Eichinger (Medical University of Graz) and Prof. Gabriele Berg (Technical University of Graz), he has established the “Microbiome and Health Initiative Graz”, which is studying the interaction of plant extracts and intestinal bacteria and their impact on human health. He has participated in the Austrian National Research Network “Drugs from Nature Targeting Inflammation” and he is coordinating the TCM Research Cluster Austria within the Herbal Medicinal Products Platform Austria (HMPPA).

He has published 370 research papers and has edited and co-edited several books. Based on his achievements he has received numerous awards, like the Egon-Stahl-Award of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research (1990), the International Award of the Belgian Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences (1996), the Norman R. Farnsworth Excellence in Botanical Research Award of the American Botanical Council (2010), the



Distinguished Achievement Award of the International Conference on the Science of Botanicals, Oxford, MS (2016), the Qihuang International Prize of China Association of Chinese (2017), and the Outstanding International Scientist Award (Pranab Banerji Memorial Award) of the Society for Ethnopharmacology India (2018).

Based on his lifetime achievements and for being “an important liaison and promoter in the establishment of international research and teaching contacts at the University of Helsinki” he was now awarded with the Honorary Doctorate of the Faculty of Philosophy of University of Helsinki, which is decorated with a doctoral hat and a ceremonial sword.

GA congratulates to Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. R. Bauer

70th Birthday Professor Dr. Wolfgang Blaschek

In March 2019 Wolfgang Blaschek, former Professor for Pharmaceutical Biology and former Director of the Pharmaceutical Institute of the Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel, celebrated his 70th birthday. Hereby we want to congratulate and wish him all the best for the future!

Wolfgang Blaschek was born in March 1949 in Southern Germany (Grötzingen, Kreis Esslingen). In 1967 he started studying agricultural biology at the University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim. After successfully obtaining his diploma degree, he decided in 1974 to continue his scientific career. Under the supervision of Professor Dr. Dieter Heß, Wolfgang Blaschek did PhD studies and received his doctoral degree for defending a thesis entitled: „Untersuchungen zur Aufnahme und Transkription exogener DNA an isolierten Zellkernen von *Petunia hybrida*“/“Investigations on uptake and transcription of exogenous DNA in isolated nuclei of *Petunia hybrid*“. During this time, he also met his future wife Heidi. After one post-doc year, both moved to Regensburg in Bavaria, where they married in the summer of 1979. In Regensburg, Wolfgang Blaschek worked in the Pharmaceutical Institute together with Professor Dr. Gerhard Franz; here, he investigated the biosynthesis of plant cell walls in protoplast cell cultures in the course of a DFG-funded project.

During the Regensburg years, both of his sons, Daniel und Stefan, were born. In 1986, Wolfgang Blaschek finished his habilitation on structure and function of plant cell wall polysaccharides, and received the *venia legendi*/the state doctorate in Pharmaceutical Biology. In 1991, in return for his successful work in teaching and research, he obtained a full professorship in Pharmaceutical Biology at the Christian-Albrechts-

University of Kiel. Professor Blaschek's research focus now shifted to isolation, structure elucidation, and testing of biologically active polysaccharides and glycoproteins from plants, algae, and cyanobacteria. Besides numerous PhD students who finished their PhD-thesis under his supervision, two of his staff members also reached the habilitation (Birgit Classen and Rainer-Bertram Volk). In spring 2009, Wolfgang Blaschek worked as a visiting professor at the Botanical Institute of the University of Melbourne, Australia.

Over 150 publications are evidence of Wolfgang Blaschek's extensive scientific work. He is editor of the highly appreciated textbook „Wichtl – Teedrogen und Phytopharmaka“ and co-editor of „Hagers Enzyklopädie der Arzneistoffe und Drogen“. Further textbooks contain chapters written by Wolfgang Blaschek, e.g. „Hänsel-Sticher“, „Handbuch des Arznei- und Gewürzpflanzenbaus“, „Pharmakognosie-Phytopharmazie“, „Die Mistel in der Tumortherapie“, „Handbook of Chemical and Biological Plant Analytical Methods“, and “Encyclopedia of Analytical Chemistry”. Professor Blaschek's strong engagement for research on medicinal plants also included a number of management positions in scientific societies: From 2004 to 2012, he was president of the Pharmaceutical Society in Schleswig-Holstein and organized over 50 scientific lectures. From 1998, he actively supported the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research; first as member of the advisory board, from 2006 to 2011 and from 2014 to 2015 as vice president, and from 2012 to 2013 as president.

Wolfgang Blaschek was and still is an enthusiastic teacher, and his yearly botanical excursions are highly appreciated by the



pharmacists in Schleswig-Holstein. In addition, his active interest in science is continuing and he currently regularly serves as reviewer for various scientific journals and as a participant in scientific congresses.

During his university career, Wolfgang Blaschek was always interested in issues and needs of his students and co-workers and established a very positive working atmosphere. The garden parties organized by him and his wife Heidi, where numerous alumni from near and far meet every year, are legendary! Wolfgang and Heidi also enjoy traveling in Germany and abroad, e.g. Wolfgang Blaschek celebrated his 70th birthday in New Zealand. After his return, the colleagues of the Pharmaceutical Institute in Kiel organized a symposium for him with a lecture presented by Professor Andreas Hensel from University of Münster. During this occasion, the new research green house was named “Wolfgang-Blaschek-Haus” in honor of his achievements for the Pharmaceutical Biology in Kiel (see photo). For the future, we wish Professor Blaschek and his wife all the best, including health, interesting journeys, and numerous grandchildren.

Susanne Alban, Birgit Classen, and Christian Zidorn

Recent thesis (2018/2019) on Medicinal Plant Research



(Notices of Ph.D.- and M.Sc./diploma thesis to the editor are welcome any time!)

Dr. rer. nat. thesis (2019) Human hyaluronidase-1 inhibitors from the roots of *Ononis spinosa* L. and leaves of *Phyllanthus muelierianus* Kuntze Excell. By: John Nii Adotey Addotey. Promotor: Prof. Dr. A. Hensel, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, University of Münster, Germany.

Dr. rer. nat. thesis (2019) Extrakte aus *Vaccinium macrocarpon* Früchten als antiadhäsive Therapiestrategie gegen uropathogene *Escherichia coli*: Einblicke in molekulare Wirkungsmechanismen. By: Birte Scharf.

Promotor: Prof. Dr. A. Hensel, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, University of Münster, Germany.

Dr. rer. nat. thesis (2019) Antiprotozoal Agents from Plants of the Family Asteraceae, Structure-Activity Relationships and Formulation of Selected Compounds into PLA Nanoparticles. By: Njogu Mark Kimani. Promotor: Prof. Dr. T. J. Schmidt, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, University of Münster, Germany.

Dr. rer. nat. thesis (2018) Antitrypanosomal activity of natural products from Nigerian *Holarrhena africana* A. DC. (Apocynaceae). By: Charles O. Nnadi. Promotor: Prof. Dr. T. J. Schmidt, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, University of Münster, Germany.

Ph.D. thesis (2019) Evaluation of fruit pomace constituents as activators of the endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS). By: Katharina Waldbauer. Promotor: Prof. Dr. Dr.

h.c. B. Kopp, Department of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Ph.D. thesis (2018) An investigation on podophyllotoxin biosynthetic pathway in *Podophyllum hexandrum*. By: Sapatshi Hazra; Promoter: Prof. Dr. Sharmila Chattopadhyay, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India.

Dr. rer. nat. thesis (2018) Untersuchungen zum Einfluss ausgewählter Sesquiterpenlactone auf das Trypanothionsystem von *Trypanosoma brucei*. By: Mairin Lenz; Promotor: Prof. Dr. T. J. Schmidt, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, University of Münster, Germany.

Ph.D. Thesis (2018) Plant extracts against *Campylobacter* sp. and a bacterial perspective of arctic root metabolization. By: Ivana Turek; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Ph.D. Thesis (2018) Phytochemical investigations of *Zicao* species and pharmacological investigations of novel shikonin derivatives on melanoma cells. By: Mag.pharm. Christin Durchschein; Supervisor: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Rudolf Bauer, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Ph.D. Thesis (2018) Phytochemical and biological investigations of Vietnamese medicinal plants with a special focus on anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory activities. By: Triet Thanh Nguyen; Supervisor: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Rudolf Bauer, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2019) Phytochemical studies of selected Nigerian medicinal plants. By: Aganga-Williams Adenike; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2019) Antimicrobial and phytochemical studies on *Salvia brachyodon*. By: Kerstin Binder; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2019) Nutrient media optimization for leafcutter ants-associated bacteria. By: Juliana Fitzek; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2019) Hybrid molecules with antiplasmodial activity. By: Clemens Hinteregger; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2019) Bioaerosols measurements over a fattening period in a pig barn. By: Sabine Köck; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of

Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2019) Bioaerosol measurements in a chicken fattening compartment over a fattening period. By: Tea Miskovic; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2019) Phytochemical studies of *Artemisia abrotanum*. By: Elisabeth Pabi; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Ph.D. Thesis (2018) Plant extracts against *Campylobacter* sp. and a bacterial perspective of arctic root metabolization. By: Ivana Turek; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2018) The influence of ethinylestradiolbenzoate and/or different drying methods on the CBD content and yield of various industrial hemp cultivars. By: Mirella Marotta; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2018) New findings on herbal drugs and preparations in stomatitis. By: Melanie Hammer; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2019) A Fast, simple and green method for the extraction and purification of bixin from the seeds of *Bixa orellana* L. by microwave-assisted extraction coupled with Box-Behnken Design. By: Tatjana Grillitsch; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Adelheid Brantner, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2019) Isolation and characterisation of Mongolian plant and soil actinomycete strains and their antibacterial compounds. By: Gerald Krenn; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Adelheid Brantner, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2018) Evaluation of the microscopic structure of roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa* L.), comparison of conventional and microwave assisted extraction methods and investigation of the color stability of the extracts. By: Ricarda Roth; Supervisor: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Adelheid Brantner, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2019) Nematode screening of extracts inhibiting fat accumulation. By: Agnes Wieser. Supervisors: Prof. J. M. Rollinger, University of Vienna, Austria.

MSc. thesis (2019) Phytochemische Untersuchung alkalisch-wässriger Fraktionen des Faulpechs der Gewöhnlich-Fichte. By: Isabella Prenner. Promotor: ao. Univ.-Prof.

Dr. S. Glasl-Tazreiter, Department of Pharmacognosy, University Vienna, Austria.

MSc. thesis (2019) Traditionsnachweis für das Fichtenfaulpech zur Wundheilung und Ionenaustauschchromatographie zur Abtrennung von Harzsäuren aus dem Fichtenfaulpech. By: Fanny Fröstl. Promotor: ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. S. Glasl-Tazreiter, Department of Pharmacognosy, University Vienna, Austria.

MSc. thesis (2019) An aqueous NaHCO₃-extract of Norway spruce balm – diterpenes, lignans and phenolic acids. By: Elisabeth Eichenauer. Promotor: ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. S. Glasl-Tazreiter, Department of Pharmacognosy, University Vienna, Austria.

MSc. thesis (2019) Beiträge zu morphologisch-anatomischen Untersuchungen des Blattes und Sprosses von *Justicia secunda* VAHL (Acanthaceae). By: Julia Eberlberger. Promotor: ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. S. Glasl-Tazreiter, Department of Pharmacognosy, University Vienna, Austria.

MSc. thesis (2018) Synthesis of novel neolignan analogues for evaluation of their anti-leishmanial activity. By: Marcel Gerhards. Promotor: Prof. Dr. T. J. Schmidt, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, University of Münster, Germany.

Diploma Thesis (2018) Quantitative Analyse der Phenole in Taraxaci herba und Taraxici radix. By: Paulina Ketzler; Promotor: Prof. L. Krenn, Department of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2018) Validierung einer HPLC-Methode zur Analytik von Cranberry- und Preiselbeer-Präparaten. By: Julia Koch; Promotor: Prof. L. Krenn, Department of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2018) Analysis, dereplication and isolation of metabolites from herbal remedies applied on hop, balsam of Peru and cardamom. By: Michelle Schraudy. Supervisors: Prof. J. M. Rollinger, Dr. U. Grienke, University of Vienna, Austria.

MSc. Thesis (2018) Bioassay-geleitete Fraktionierung eines antiadhäsiv wirksamen Extraktes aus Selleriefrüchten gegen uropathogene *E. coli*. By: Kim Grube. Promotor: Prof. Dr. A. Hensel, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, University of Münster, Germany.

Editorial remark

All contributions for the GA-Newsletter are welcome. Deadline for submission for the next edition is fixed to November 25th 2019. Please send all contributions to: **Prof. Dr. A. Hensel**, University of Münster, Institute for Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, Corrensstrasse 48, D-48149 Münster, Germany; ahensel@uni-muenster.de